

1	Evansville, KY. Owensboro. KY. Lafayette. LA, Columbia. SC
2	Evansville, KY. Owensboro. KY, Lafayette, LA, Columbia, SC
3	Montgomery AL. Jacksonville, FL. Pensacola, FL. West Palm Beach, FL. Savannah, GA, Evansville, KY. Louisville. KY. Owensboro, KY. Baton Rouge, LA, Lafayette, LA. Lake Charles, LA. Monroe, LA. Shreveport, LA. Biloxi, MS. Jackson, MS, Chattanooga, TN. Knoxville. TN. Nashville, TN. Columbia, SC
4	Evansville, KY. Owensboro. KY, Lafayette, LA. and Columbia, SC
5	Evansville, KY, Owensboro, KY, Lafayette. LA. and Columbia, SC
6	Evansville, KY, Owensboro. KY. Lafayette, LA. Lake Charles, LA. and Columbia.:
7	Evansville, KY, Owensboro, KY, Lafayette, LA, and Columbia, SC
8	Montgomery, AL, Daytona Beach, FL. Gainesville. FL. Jacksonville, FL. Melbourne, FL. Miami, FL. Orlando, FL. West Palm Beach, FL. Atlanta, GA. Savannah, GA. Evansville, KY. Louisville, KY, Owensboro. KY. Lafayette. LA. Charlotte, NC, Greensboro, NC, Raleigh-Durham, NC, Wilmington, NC, Chattanooga, TN. Knoxville, TN, Memphis, TN. Columbia, SC
9	Pensacola. FL, Savannah, GA. Evansville, KY, Owensboro, KY, Baton Rouge, LA, Lafayette. LA, Lake Charles, LA, Monroe, LA, Shreveport, LA, Jackson, MS, Columbia, SC
10	Evansville, KY, Owensboro. KY. Lafayette, LA, Columbia, SC

2. **FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION IS STILL EXTREMELY LIMITED, EVEN IN PHASE II PRICING FLEXIBILITY MSAs.**

3

3 Competitively provided special access facilities are **only** available at an extremely small number of **commercial** buildings, forcing **IXCs** to acquire the vast majority of these services **from** the **ILEC**.

8 16. Special access services consist of three principal elements — the loop facility
9 connecting the customer's premises with the serving wire center ("Channel Termination"),
10 Interoffice Transport links interconnecting two or more wire centers, and entrance facilities.
11 While the Commission's Phase II Pricing Flexibility requirements are driven primarily by the
12 presence of CLEC/CAP collocation arrangements in ILEC central offices,¹⁵ in practice such
13 collocation may possibly affect the ability of a CLEC/CAP to compete with the ILEC for
14 Interoffice Transport, **but not** its ability to provide the special access link to the customer's
15 premises. Indeed, RBOCs fail to provide any evidence of competitive facilities being used to
16 displace either interoffice transport in the RBOC network or channel terminations to end user
17 premises. Accordingly, even if the presence of multiple collocation arrangements were by itself
18 sufficient to establish the presence of effective competition for *interoffice transport* — which in
19 many cases it is not — the presence of such collocation does not facilitate or support competition
20 with respect to "last mile" channel terminations to individual customer premises, the market for
21 which with few exceptions remains the near-exclusive domain of the incumbent LECs.

22

23 17. In order to compete without the use of any ILEC special access service, a CLEC/CAP
24 must either deploy its own facilities between the customer's premises and the CLEC's central
25 office, or acquire them from another CLEC/CAP, if available. Absent that, the fact that the
26 CLEC/CAP may have a collocation presence in the ILEC wire center serving the customer will
27 **not** enable it to bypass ILEC special access channel termination service. If the CLEC **wants** to

15. *Pricing Flexibility Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 14221, 14261-14262.

1 offer competitive transport facilities to customers in buildings that are not served by its own or
2 by another CLEC's subscriber facilities, the *only* means by which it can interconnect its compe-
3 titive transport facilities with its customer is via ILCC-provided special access.

5 18. ILECs own subscriber access line facilities connecting some 3- to 4-million commercial
6 buildings nationwide.¹⁶ AT&T currently provides service at approximately 186,000 commercial
7 buildings.¹⁷ Of these, AT&T *owns* facilities to only about 6,700 buildings, and obtains facilities
8 *from other CLECs* at approximately 3,300 additional locations.¹⁸ Thus, competitive alternatives
9 to ILEC special access service are available at only about 10,000 locations, representing roughly
10 5.7% of the approximately 186,000 commercial buildings at which AT&T currently provides
11 service, and at less than 0.4% of the 3- to 4-million commercial buildings nationwide.

13 19. The availability of competitive alternatives to ILEC's special access in MSAs subject to
14 Phase 11 pricing flexibility is not appreciably greater. AT&T currently serves 38,477 buildings

16. This does not necessarily mean that the potential market for special access-like facilities consists of all commercial buildings. On the other hand, it clearly consists of more buildings than merely those that are currently receiving service.

17. LNS Building Data Warehouse, <http://scot.als.att.com/scot/>, accessed January 22, 2003 and LNS Building Inventory, AT&T Proprietary Database, accessed January 10, 2003.

18. *Id.*

1 in the Full Coverage Phase II MSAs,¹⁹ and owns or has access to other CLEC-owned facilities in
 2 only about 2,375 of these" (see Table below). about 6% overall
 3

Table 7				
Competitive Alternatives to ILEC Special Access are Minimally Available Even in MSAs with Phase II Pricing Flexibility				
Type of Pricing Flexibility	TOTAL AT&T - served buildings	AT&T	Other CLECs	ILECs
Full Coverage Under Phase II	38,477	1,661 4.32%	714 1.86%	36,102 93.83%
Limited Coverage Under Phase II	94,202	4,176 4.43%	1,893 2.01%	88,133 93.56%
No pricing flexibility	53,456	890 1.66%	682 1.28%	51,884 97.06%
TOTALS	186,135	6,727 3.61%	3,289 1.77%	176,119 94.62%
Sources: See footnote 19.				

19. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Tariff FCC No. 73, Section 39.2(A) and (B), 1st Revised Page 39-3, Effective: June 18, 2002; Qwest Corporation, Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 23, Original Page 23-0 - Original Page 23-28, Effective: June 15, 2002; The Verizon Telephone Companies, Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 14.7, Original Page 14-44 - Original Page 14-61, Effective: July 3, 2001; The Verizon Telephone Companies, Tariff FCC No. 11, Section 15.3, Original Page 15-19 - Original Page 15-34, Effective: July 3, 2001; Verizon Telephone Companies, Tariff FCC No. 14, Section 19.1, Original Page 19-1 - 3rd Revised Page 19-37, Effective: May 2, 2001 through June 1, 2002; The Southern New England Telephone Company, Tariff FCC NO. 39, Section 24.2(A) and (B), Original Page 24-2, Effective: June 18, 2002; Ameritech Operating Companies, Tariff FCC No. 2, Section 21.2 (A) and (B), 1st Revised Page 689, Effective June 18, 2002; Pacific Bell Telephone Company, Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 31.2(A) and (B), 3rd Revised Page 31-3, Effective: July 2, 2002.

20. *Id.*

20. Even in **MSAs** with the largest CLEC presence, CLECs must rely upon ILEC-provided special access services for the majority of their customer connections. Consider, for example, the following statistics for the New York, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles areas:

Table 8			
Competitive Alternatives to ILEC Special Access are Minimally Available Even In Areas with the Largest			
MSA	AT&T Share	Other CLEC Share	ILEC Special Share
New York	12.6%	1.5%	85.9%
Boston	11.8%	1.7%	86.5%
Chicago	4.6%	1.4%	94.0%
Los Angeles	3.5%	1.1%	95.4%

Even in the most competitive area in the US, New York, no AT&T or other CLEC facilities are available at 85.9% of those locations. A similar pattern is evident in each of the other three large markets. Moreover, it would be incorrect to interpret these aggregate MSA-wide figures as suggesting that the distribution of AT&T- and CLEC-owned facilities is anything close to homogeneous within each of these MSAs. The principal location of AT&T- or CLEC-owned facilities is generally limited to the central business district and to a few other isolated locations. It is also noteworthy that there are large areas in which there are *no* AT&T-connected customer locations at all; in these locations, the ILEC remains the sole support of local telecommunications services. The extremely limited availability and non-homogeneous distribution of non-ILEC facilities, even in **MSAs** with the greatest competitive presence, underscores the conclusion that the **MSA** is simply too large an area within which to assess the ability and opportunity for CLECs to compete for special access services. And except in those specific locations where CLEC-provided special access facilities are in place, the ILEC maintains its unchallenged monopoly and market power.

21. Both BellSouth and Vericon have attempted to misdirect the Commission away from this indisputable reality by introducing theoretical “studies” and other evidence that purports to show a substantially greater amount of facilities-based CLEC activity than is actually present. These RBOC “studies” and their portrayals of an intensely competitive facilities-based market are so fatally flawed that they must be dismissed as entirely meritless.

BellSouth’s Eastern Management Group “study” rests entirely upon unsupported and patently false assumptions and assertions of “fact”

22. BellSouth has attempted to dismiss these empirical realities by offering an entirely theoretical “study” penned by the Eastern Management Group (“EMG”) that purports to “derive the likelihood that Special-Access type facilities will be available in BellSouth’s territory.”²¹ The EMG paper appears to be premised upon the notion that “the likelihood of the presence of such [collocated CLEC] facilities in a wire center indicates the availability of alternatives to BellSouth Special Access.”²² I disagree. What “indicates the availability of alternatives to BellSouth Special Access” is the *actual presence* of alternative facilities in a wire center, not some theoretical calculation of “likelihood” that is itself premised upon entirely unsupported assumptions that are simply wrong as a matter of fact.

23. Not surprisingly, of course, EMG’s calculation of theoretical “likelihood” is driven entirely by an *assumption* of actual presence of CLEC-owned facilities in each wire center. EMG contends that, on average, *each collocated CLEC individually owns special access type facilities connected to 30.9% of the buildings served by that wire center:*

The probability of an IXC being able to purchase special access from a collocated CLEC is simply (1 — probability that no collocated CLEC is willing to

21. Comments of BellSouth, Exhibit 2 (“EMG Report”), at 7

22. *Id.*, at 7.

participate in the sale). *The likelihood that a CLEC is willing to participate in a special access sale is estimated by the fraction of its connected buildings that are on-net as opposed to being on-switch or total service resale. (We assume normal business behavior, that is, that the CLECs will want to maximize the use of their network facilities.) We estimate this likelihood to be 30.9% across BellSouth's territory. Therefore if there are 2 collocated CLECs, the probability of the special access sale is $1 - (1 - 0.309)^2 = 0.52$.*²³

EMG's 30.9% figure purports to represent the proportion of only those buildings in which CLECs have customers where CLEC-owned facilities (designated as "on net") are present ("the fraction of its connected buildings that are on-net as opposed to being on-switch or total service resale"). Although the 30.9% figure is characterized as an "average," EMG's specific use of it assumes that *exactly* 30.9% applies to *each* collocated CLEC in *each* BellSouth wire center in which such collocation is present. Moreover, EMG's exponential calculation *requires* that, for each CLEC, the "on net" (vs. ILEC Special Access-served) buildings are randomly distributed among all buildings served by the wire center. *Not only does EMG offer no support for any of these assumptions, they are undoubtedly not even remotely close to reality.*

24. Even if all of EMG's purported "facts" and "assumptions" were accurate — which they are not — its use of the proportion of CLEC on-net buildings to total CLEC-connected buildings teaches nothing about the likelihood that a *new* customer not located in a building that has any CLEC presence can be served by means of a competitive alternative to ILEC Special Access. The appropriate driver for this "likelihood" analysis is necessarily the proportion of CLEC "on net" buildings to *all buildings served by the ILEC wire center*, whether or not any existing customer therein takes service that is provided by a CLEC. Using AT&T's statistics for purposes of illustration (i.e., 186,000 out of 3- to 4-million commercial buildings) and accepting EMG's 30.9% "on net" proportion, the proportion of CLEC on-net buildings to total commercial

23. *Id.*, at 9, emphasis supplied, footnotes omitted.

1 buildings would translate to 30.9% of the 5% to **6%** of all commercial buildings in which any
2 CLEC connection exists, i.e., roughly 1.5% to **1.8%** overall.

3
4 25. It is also extremely unlikely that the incidence of CLEC "on net" buildings is randomly
5 distributed among all CLECs with a collocation presence in a given wire center, as **EMG** has
6 assumed. In fact, it is far more likely that many of the same buildings are being served by more
7 than one **CLEC**. In that case, EMG's exponential calculation would materially overstate the
8 "likelihood" that an IXC could obtain special access type services from at least one CLEC.
9 Indeed, at the opposite extreme, if *all* collocated CLECs served exactly the same buildings, then
10 the presence of more than one CLEC in a wire center would not increase the likelihood above
11 the single-CLEC level, i.e., 30.9% under EMG's assumption, or in the 0.4% range based upon
12 the proportion of CLEC on-net buildings vs. all commercial buildings served by the wire center.

13
14 26. The EMG analysis thus rests upon numerous unsupported and grossly **unrealistic**
15 assumptions, and so teaches nothing whatsoever as to the "likelihood" that CLEC-owned facil-
16 ities will **be** available to serve a given customer premises. Nevertheless, I have attempted to
17 replicate EMG's calculations using more realistic assumptions, and, when this is done, the results
18 are dramatically different.

19
20 27. EMG's Table 3 presents what EMG seeks to portray as the "probability of CLEC avail-
21 ability for wholesale special access to IXC." I have recast **EMG's** Table 3 using (a) the percen-
22 tage of the 186,000 AT&T customer locations at which AT&T-owned on-net special access
23 facilities are available (3.23%) as an estimate of the average percentage of a given CLEC's
24 customer locations that are served by that CLEC's own facilities, and (b) the percentage of total
25 commercial buildings at which AT&T-owned facilities are available (0.2%) as an estimate of the
26 average percentage of all commercial buildings served by a given wire center that are served by
27 that CLEC's own facilities:

	Number of CLECs at wire center				
	0	1	2	>3 (11)	BST Average
Probability	0	0.0323	0.0636	0.3031	0.1579

	Number of CLECs at wire center				
	0	1	2	>3 (11)	BST Average
Probability	0	0.0020	0.0040	0.0218	0.0123

As Table 10 demonstrates, when the more realistic and more appropriate measure of CLEC on-net facilities is utilized — i.e., CLEC-served buildings as a percentage of *all* commercial buildings served by the wire center — the “likelihood that [competitive] Special-Access type facilities will be available” to serve any potential CLEC customer is only about 1.23%, a far cry from the patently absurd 75.9% figure posited by EMG.

28. Even this corrected “analysis” does not provide a fully accurate assessment, in that it still assumes a random distribution of on-net buildings for each CLEC and further assumes that the AT&T-average applies in each and every wire center and for each and every CLEC collo-

1 cated therein. On the one hand, there is a greater likelihood that a randomly arriving customer
2 will want service at a building at which CLEC facilities are in place than at a random building
3 among all of those served by the wire center; in that event, the 1.23% result would tend to under-
4 state actual conditions. On the other hand, it is also likely that the number of buildings being
5 served by AT&T nationwide — 6,700 — is far larger than for most other CLECs, so if the actual
6 distribution of CLEC on-net buildings were substituted for an "average" based solely upon the
7 AT&T figure that I have used here, the result would be significantly overstated. I do not present
8 this "corrected" version of the EMG "analysis" for the purpose of providing any specific "likeli-
9 hood" estimate, but rather for the purpose of demonstrating the fatal flaws in EMG's methodo-
10 logy and the sheer absurdity of its results. I believe that it is most likely that the probability of
11 some CLEC-provided alternative to ILEC special access being available for any given customer
12 in any given building is somewhere in the range of the results presented on Tables 9 and 10
13 above, i.e., somewhere between 1.23% and 15.79%, but probably a lot closer to the lower than to
14 the upper end of this range.

15
16 29. Additionally, as Professors Ordoover and Willig correctly observe, the presence of
17 CLEC-owned channel termination facilities is greatest where extremely high-capacity demand,
18 at the OCn level, is present, and virtually nonexistent where all that is required at a particular
19 customer site is capacity at the single DS-3 level or below.²⁴ The EMG "study" implicitly
20 assumes a uniform distribution of CLEC-served buildings across all capacity levels. Conse-
21 quently, since the vast majority of individual special access type connections are at or below the
22 DS-3 level — and a substantial majority at or below the DS-1 level²⁵ — there is no basis to infer

24. Ordoover/Willig Reply Decl., at paras. 28-30.

25. For example, Ameritech's most recent annual access filing with the Commission (using 2001 actual demand data, at the special access rates effective July 2002, projects \$601.9-million total access revenue, with \$363.4-million categorized as DS-1, more than 60% of total revenues, plus another 101-million for DDS and other digital lines, which brings the cumulative percentage
(continued...)

1 anything from EMG's results — even if otherwise accurate on an aggregate, market-wide basis
2 — as to the likelihood of a CLEC facilities presence in buildings where only minimal dedicated
3 special access capacity is required.

4
5 Verizon's *Competition for Special Access Services* report provides a **false** and entirely
6 misleading **assessment of** the actual state **of** competition **for** special access services
7

8 30. Verizon has also provided a grossly exaggerated picture of facilities-based special
9 access competition through its "Competition for Special **Access** Services" report.²⁶ Several of
10 the report's claims raise theoretical rather than factual matters addressing competition and are
11 being addressed elsewhere in AT&T's Reply Comments." For example, AT&T's comments
12 point out that Verizon's comparisons of "voice grade equivalent" lines reflect very high-capacity
13 links **of** various types rather than the scope of the availability of competitive alternatives; that
14 Verizon's listings of cities with CLEC "networks" indicate very **little** or nothing about the
15 presence of CLEC "on net" buildings, if any, **in** a served MSA; and that Verizon's claims
16 regarding CLEC resale of ILEC special access services simply confirm that CLEC facilities that
17 compete with ILEC facilities are very limited in scope and, with respect to Verizon's comparison
18 **of** special access resale to UNE resale, that the UNE use restrictions are unduly **constraining**.²⁸

25. (...continued)

up to 77%. In addition, Ameritech's filing identifies \$122.9-million as revenues for **DS-3** circuits. There is no separate break-out for OCn, but even if half of the anticipated **DS-3** revenues were from associated with OCn-level circuits, the total percentage of revenues from circuits at or below DS-3 levels would **be** 87%.

26. See *In the Matter of AT&T Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local **Exchange** Carrier Rates for Special Access Services*, RM 10593, *Verizon Report on Competition for Special Access **Services***, filed Dec. 2, 2002 ("Verizon Report").

27. See AT&T Reply Comments, *supra* at 10-19.

28. See Verizon Report, at 12-13, 21-23, 26.

1 Verizon's Report **Generally** Fails to Distinguish Between the **Hype** of the Hi-Tech
2 **Bubble** Era and **Current, Actual** Special Access **Competitive** Conditions.
3

4 31. Verizon's claims of special access competition are outdated. They are based on a time
5 when massive CLEC growth was presumed, where plans were as good as implemented, and
6 where press releases and analyst statements were presumed accurate and reliable. Of course, this
7 era ended some time ago, and nowhere was this felt more acutely than the CLEC sector under
8 consideration. Verizon's attempts to belatedly tap into the hype of 2000 provide no basis for
9 judging competitive conditions in today's market.
10

11 32. The financial health of CLECs is nowhere near what it was a couple of years ago. **Most**
12 large special access providers face the bankruptcy and its crippling effect on investor confidence
13 and the CLECs' credit. For all but a few competitors, capital markets will hardly support
14 current operations, much less expansive "plans" relied on by Verizon.
15

16 33. The bubble-era hype infuses the Verizon report. For crucial evidence regarding the
17 availability of local fiber, Verizon relies upon announcements of "planned" or "intended" net-
18 work rollout announced in 2000 and 2001.²⁹ It cites Jack Grubman, to establish the robustness of
19 the now-crippled "wholesale fiber" sector.³⁰ It credits as meaningful the announcement of a
20 "\$40.8 million round of equity financing" as proof that the capital markets have not all but closed
21 for many CLECs in this sector.³¹ Verizon points to a "web-based trading pit for metropolitan
22 fiber" as support for its assertions regarding the robustness and scope of fiber wholesalers — but

29. *Id.* at 17, Table 6 (citing AFS "plans to install" additional fiber, Fiber Technologies "planned network infrastructure"); *id.* at 20, Table 7 (stating that El Paso Global Network "plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four years on a nationwide fiberoptic network and 'plans to overbuild its metropolitan areas to provide better connectivity'").

30. *Id.* at 15, fn.70

31. *See* Verizon Report at 16, Table 6 (citing a \$40.8 million round of equity financing for Yipes Communications).

1 that web site has discontinued its locator services and contains no postings for the sale of unde-
2 ployed fiber.³² And throughout its "analysis," Verizon relies upon sources published by the New
3 Paradigm Resources Group, which takes a naively uncritical view of the CLECs' condition as it
4 discharges its role as cheerleader for this beleaguered industry sector. New Paradigm twists
5 financial reality by proposing that bankruptcy is somehow just a normal business condition that,
6 fortuitously, has the advantage of reducing interest expenses."

7
8 34. In fact, bankruptcy is a severe impediment to competition and one that infuses the
9 sector, limiting current service provision and having even more significant consequences for
10 ongoing competition. As AT&T has shown and certainly not surprisingly, major IXC customers
11 cannot contract confidently with special access providers in bankruptcy — in large part because
12 their end user customers quite sensibly will not tolerate such arrangements.³⁴ Bankruptcy is
13 particularly debilitating in a capital intensive industry, where credit-worthiness is, by definition,
14 of paramount importance in raising the funds necessary to support continued operations (for cash
15 flow-negative suppliers), to enable capital expenditures necessary to continue to provide service
16 to current customers, and to undertake network expansion.

17
18 35. The roll call of bankrupt suppliers of special access services continues and includes
19 some of the most significant providers. In the first nine months of 2002, newly bankrupt
20 providers include":

32. See www.fiberloops.com/Fiberloops/posts.htm.

33. New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc., *CLEC Report* 2003, Chapter 2 at 2 (17th ed. 2003)
("Chapter 11 Bankruptcy: A Hindrance or A Benefit?") ("CLEC Report 17th ed.").

34. See *In the Matter of AT&T Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent
Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Special Access Services*, RM No. 10593, Declaration of
Kenneth Thomas on Behalf of AT&T at para. 9-10, Filed October 15, 2002 ("Thomas Decl.").

35. See CLEC Report 17th ed., at Ch. 2 Table 1

1	Knology Broadband	09/18/02
2	Birch Telecom	07/30/02
3	WorldCom	07/21/02
4	ITC^DeltaCom	06/25/02
5	XO Communications	06/16/02
6	Advanced TelCom Group	05/02/02
7	Mpower Communications Corp.	04/08/02
8	Adelphia Business Solutions	03/27/02
9	Yipes Communications	03/21/02
10	Western Integrated Networks	03/13/02
11	Logix Communications	02/28/02
12	Network Plus Corp.	02/04/02
13	McLeod USA	01/31/02
14	Global Crossing Ltd.	01/28/02
15		

16 36. Of the sixteen major providers of special access services identified by Verizon,³⁶ six are
17 in bankruptcy, while a seventh is just now emerging from bankruptcy protection. Six of these
18 bankrupt providers fall within the top 9, in terms of their special access revenues. The table
19 below reproduces Verizon's presentation of major special access competitors to the ILECs, with
20 shading indicating those that have declared bankruptcy:"
21

36. See Verizon Report, at 9, Table 4.

37. See CLEC Report 17th ed., at Ch. 2, pp. 2-4

Table 11			
Major Competitive Providers of Special Access			
Company	Special Access Revenue (2001 in millions)	Company	Special Access Revenue (2001 in millions)
	\$2,880	McLeod USA	\$91
World Com	\$2,207	KMC Telecom	\$90
Qwest	\$380	General Comm , Inc.	\$71
Time Warner	\$384	Adelphia Bus. Solutions	\$62
XO Communications	\$378	BTI Telecom	\$48
IDT/WinStar	\$190	NTS Communications	\$45
ICG Communications	\$165	Cablevision Lightpath	\$28
ITC^DeltaCom	\$96	Cox Communications	\$21

1 37. Apart from the implications of bankruptcies, the publicly released information regarding
 2 the networks, services and revenues of many of the largest special access providers should be
 3 regarded as overstated through undue optimism (if not outright misrepresentation). Major
 4 special access providers that are expected to restate their financial information and related ser-
 5 vice claims include WorldCom, Qwest, and Adelphia Business. The example of Winstar is
 6 instructive in assessing Verizon's current claims. Of the more than \$900-million in CLEC
 7 revenue that Winstar had claimed when it was acquired by IDT, IDT discovered that nearly
 8 \$750-million reflected fiber swaps that were irrelevant to CLEC competition.³⁸ Despite its
 9 earlier uncritical analyses, New Paradigm now estimates that \$120-million of the asserted
 10 Winstar revenue was derived from resale of ILEC services, indicating that only slightly less than
 11 0% -- or about \$80-million — of Winstar's claimed \$900-million in revenue resulted from
 12 services provided over its own facilities.³⁹ This example accords with AT&T's conclusion that

38. See New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc., *CLEC Report 2002*, Carrier Profile of Winstar Communications at 2 (16th ed. 2002) ("CLEC Report 16th ed.").

39. *Id.*

CLEC assertions regarding on-net buildings have often proved overstated, with unexpected and undisclosed reliance upon resale of ILEC special access services.”

Verizon Overestimates CLEC Revenues and Market Share.

38. Verizon attempts to portray the **CLECs** as vigorous competitors in special access markets based upon claims that CLEC revenues represent approximately \$10-billion out of a \$28-billion market, with consistent growth, and that particular CLECs have robust special access revenues.” Even if true, these claims would not support the assertion that relevant markets are competitive. Indeed, they would be entirely consistent with the highly segmented competitive markets that AT&T has documented.” Multiple providers of special access services may deploy facilities in a few areas where customers are highly concentrated (indeed, have dramatically overbuilt in those areas), but competitive alternatives do not extend to most buildings or to most users even within relatively competitive **MSAs**, and the expansion of facilities-based competition appears to have stalled because the overwhelming majority of buildings cannot be served economically by a CLEC. In sum, certain high-volume customers may have competitive alternatives in a limited number of locations, but most do not even in areas subject to Phase II relief.”

39. In fact, Verizon’s portrayal of CLEC revenues, growth, and market share — even using the sources Verizon relies upon — is inaccurate, lacks analytical integrity and conceals a deeply troubled service sector that has largely stalled. First, while Verizon repeatedly suggests that the

40. Thomas Decl., at para. 8.

41. See Verizon Report, at 2, 27, and Table 4.

42. See AT&T Reply Comments, at 10-19.

43. See, e.g., *Comments of the Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee*, at 3-4.

CLECs' special *access* revenue continues on a robust growth trajectory,⁴⁴ the New Paradigm research group now anticipates flat revenues for the sector — even with the current customer base experiencing steady growth in use of services. New Paradigm as recently as 2002 had projected that CLEC dedicated access and private line revenues would increase by 61% from 2001 to 2005.⁴⁵ More recently, New Paradigm has lowered these predictions and now estimates only 11.6% total growth from 2002 to 2006 — less than a 2.8% increase annually."

40. Second, Verizon's overstated claims collapse when it attempts to use FCC-sourced information. Verizon asserts that the CLECs have revenue share of approximately 30% based upon 2000 figures of \$4.2-billion of FCC-reported revenue, supplemented by self-supply of \$1.3-billion in 2001, compared to ILEC special access revenues of \$13-billion in 2000.⁴⁷ This analysis contains three flaws: (1) it excludes non-RBOC ILEC revenues (amounting to \$1.1-billion, or 8.1%, of ILEC local private line and special access revenues);⁴⁸ (2) it compares the 2001 self-supply revenues of competitive carriers with the 2000 RROC numbers, deflating the RBOC number by \$5-billion on Verizon's own calculation;⁴⁹ and (3) it includes revenues in the relatively more contested and irrelevant long distance private line services market (\$985-million, or 23%, of CLEC revenues but only 7.5% of ILEC revenues)."⁵⁰ Even using Verizon's sources

44. See Verizon Report at 27. Verizon also makes projections for the value of self-supply access for AT&T and WorldCom based upon the increase from 1998 to 1999. *Id.* at 28.

45. See CLEC Report 16th cd. at Ch. 3, Table 13.

46. See CLEC Report 17th cd. at Ch. 3, Table 9.

47. Verizon Report, at 28.

48. See FCC, Industry Analysis Div., *Telecommunications Industry Revenue* 2000, at 13 & 17 (Jan. 2002).

49. Verizon Report, at 28.

50. FCC, Industry Analysis Div., *Telecommunications Industry Revenue* 2000, at 13-14, 17-

1 and growth assumptions and adjusting for these three factors, the 2001 CLEC share of the local
2 access and private line market is 22%.⁵¹

3
4 41. Third, the component revenues that Verizon relies on to come up with the supposed
5 \$10-billion special access revenue total for CLEC services are plainly exaggerated. Verizon's
6 Table 4 purports to capture the special access revenues of CLECs that provide more than \$20-
7 million of services, but the basis for this calculation fails to withstand scrutiny. The flaws in this
8 table include:

- 9
- 10 • Even if taken at face value, the figures as presented by Verizon sum to less than \$7.24-
11 billion in CLEC special access revenues.
 - 12
 - 13 • AT&T's 2001 special access revenue is presented as \$2.88-billion, but New Paradigm
14 now estimates that figure to be \$2.38 billion."
 - 15

50. (...continued)
18.

51. ILEC 2000 revenues for local private line and special access services, derived from the same FCC tables that Verizon uses, are \$1.35 billion. FCC, Industry Analysis Div., *Telecommunications Industry Revenue 2000*, at 13 & 17. For 2001, using Verizon's ILEC revenue growth assumption (Verizon Competition Statement, at 27), indicates ILEC 2001 special access revenues of \$1.86 billion. FCC tables indicate \$3.22 billion of CLEC local private line and special access revenue in 2000, FCC Industry Analysis Div., *Telecommunications Revenue 2000*, at 14 & 18, which, using the New Paradigm Resources Group estimate of the growth rate in CLEC special access revenues from 2000 to 2001 (17.9%), increases those revenues to \$3.8 billion for 2001. Adding Verizon's aggressive estimate of \$1.3 billion of "self-supply" by AT&T and MCI brings the 2001 CLEC total to \$5.1 billion. $5.1 / (5.1 + 18.6) = .22$.

52. *Id.*, AT&T carrier profile at 1, 6 (estimating that dedicated access/transport – the source Verizon employs for its special access revenue calculations – accounted for 18% of total revenues, which were \$13.2 billion).

- 1 • WorldCom's 2001 special access revenue is presented as \$2.207-billion, but New
2 Paradigm now estimates that figure to be \$1.62-billion.⁵³ Even that reduced figure
3 appears to include WorldCom's international revenues.
4
- 5 • The Qwest figure of \$480-million apparently includes special access revenues derived
6 from provision of certain special access services within Qwest's incumbent region, as
7 well as international revenues.⁵⁴ The Qwest figures, in any event, predate Qwest's
8 massive downward revisions of revenues and, given Qwest's ownership structure,
9 would be questionable evidence of true competition between ILECs and CLECs.
10
- 11 • IDT/Winstar's special access revenues are presented as \$190-million. New Paradigm
12 estimates that the company's special access revenues for 2002 were only \$24-million.⁵⁵
13
- 14 • ICG Communications' special access revenues are presented as \$165-million. New
15 Paradigm estimates that the company's special access revenues for 2002 were \$133-
16 million.⁵⁶
17

53. *Id.*, WorldCom carrier profile at 1, 5 (estimating that dedicated access/transport accounted for 14% of total revenues, which were \$11.6 billion).

54. *Id.*, Qwest carrier profile at 3 (describing Qwest's strategy to market services in the 14-state region previously served by U.S. West, with whom Qwest merged in 2000).

55. *Id.*, Winstar carrier profile at 1, 5 (estimating that dedicated access/transport accounted for 20% of IDT/Winstar's total revenues, which were \$120 million).

56. *Id.*, ICG Communications carrier profile at 1, 5 (estimating that dedicated access/transport accounted for 29% of total revenues, which were \$460,000).

1 • McLeod USA is presented as having \$91-million in special access revenues. New
2 Paradigm estimates that the company's special access revenues for 2002 were \$77-
3 million."

4
5 • As noted above, the relevant market concerns local special access and private line,
6 which requires reduction of the resulting figures by, in aggregate, 23% (the portion of
7 CLEC special access revenues attributable to interstate private line services).

X
8 Making these adjustment, based upon Verizon's own source, reduces the overall CLEC special
9 access revenues to \$4.6-billion, or 54.2 billion if Qwest is excluded altogether.⁵⁸ That's less than
10 half the \$10-billion figure being touted by Verizon.
11

12
13 42. Finally, and of particular importance for assessing the extent of facilities-based
14 competitive alternatives, much of the CLEC revenues reflect **resold** ILEC special access Faci-
15 lities. Verizon confirms that BOCs provide approximately **56%** of their special access lines (by
16 voice grade equivalent) to competing carriers,⁵⁹ and Verizon credits these lines as ones that are
17 included in the CLEC numbers of voice grade equivalent lines served. Verizon derives this
18 figure from the ratio of revenues the BOCs receive from end users as opposed to competing
19 carriers. While Verizon likely overestimates the percentage of its resold lines that are employed
20 as CLEC-served lines (rather than being used for upstream services), even if one assumes a
21 somewhat reduced percentage, the implications are clear: CLEC revenues for special access
22 services provided on a facilities basis ("on net") — which are the only relevant revenues for

57. *Id.*, McLeod carrier profile, at 6 (estimating that dedicated access/transport accounted for 7 percent of total revenues, which were \$1.1 billion).

58. These figures were arrived at by substituting the updated revenue amounts in Verizon's Table 3 (CLEC Special Access Revenues) and then subtracting 23% of that total.

59. *See* Verizon Report, at 24

1 purposes of judging facilities-based competition — are much lower than the total revenues they
2 report, because of the high portion of special access they provide over resold RBOC lines. Fifty-
3 six percent of 2001 RBOC special access revenues (estimated by Verizon to total \$18-billion)
4 amounts to \$10-billion — nearly all of CLEC special access revenues based upon even the most
5 aggressive assessments used by Verizon and the New Paradigm Resources Group. Deductions
6 from the \$10-billion figure due to resale for upstream services would be at least in part offset by
7 the margin that CLECs would need to add to the ILEC special access services that they resell.
8 Whatever reasonable assumptions are used, the overwhelming majority of CLEC special access
9 revenues are attributable to resold ILEC services rather than to facilities-based special access
10 services. And that much smaller figure attributed to "on net" revenues is dwarfed by the \$28-
11 billion that Verizon estimates for the entire special access market.

12
13 **Verizon Fails to Show that CLECs Can Economically Connect to More Than a Small**
14 **Percentage of Buildings.**
15

16 43. As I have noted above, CLEC facilities reach only a minute fraction of all commercial
17 buildings in the US. Of greatest importance to the touchstone competition inquiry, the
18 "availability of competitive alternatives," only a small percentage of buildings are or can be
19 connected economically through "on-net" services provided exclusively over non-ILEC
20 facilities.⁶⁰ Consequently, and as AT&T has explained before: competitive providers of special
21 access services can economically reach only a small fraction of the commercial buildings that
22 hold potential customers.⁶¹

60. See *Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket No. 01-339, Declaration of Michael E. Leshner and Robert J. Frontera on Behalf of AT&T Corp., at paras. 41-42.

61. See Thomas Decl., at para. 12

1 44. In large measure, Verizon accepts this crucial analysis. It credits an estimate that non-
2 ILEC special access providers can provide on-net service to only approximately 30,000
3 commercial buildings nationwide,⁶² which represents less than 1% of the total buildings served
4 by ILECs.

5
6 45. At the same time, Verizon makes a series of marginal claims that attempt to blunt the
7 force of this basic concession. First, Verizon indicates that the number of on-net buildings is
8 "constantly increasing" and cites an AT&T statement that its local fiber network is growing!
9 While it is undoubtedly true that AT&T's connections are increasing, AT&T has also established
10 that facilities-based special access competition is inherently limited to a small subset of highly
11 concentrated, high-traffic customers.⁶⁴ More importantly, the number of on-net buildings of
12 other important providers of special access services is not increasing: as service providers exit
13 the business altogether or scale down operations as part of Chapter 11 proceedings, reduce their
14 effective connections, or reveal that their "on net" building and network claims were in fact
15 examples of irrationally exuberant overstatement.⁶⁵

16
17 46. Verizon also claims that CLECs serve "approximately 330,000 buildings," while
18 admitting that more than 90% of these buildings are served in part or whole through resale of
19 ILEC special access facilities." Even the larger figure provides no sound indication of
20 competition even to that subset of buildings. Verizon relies upon a New Paradigm Resources
21 Group report for its figure, but that report indicates that the two providers with the greatest

62. See Verizon Report, at 13.

63. *Id.*

64. See AT&T Reply Comments, at 11

65. See discussion of *Winstar*, *supra* at para. 37

66. See Verizon Report, at 13.

1 number of buildings served are Knology Broadband, with 149,950 buildings served,⁶⁷ and XO
2 Communications, with 84,379 buildings served.⁶⁸ Both Knology and XO have in recent months
3 entered bankruptcy.⁶⁹ New Paradigm now indicates that Knology has zero special access
4 revenues, and in fact the “buildings” served apparently reflect residential cable TV and related
5 retail services.⁷⁰ Despite its earlier estimates, New Paradigm now indicates that reliable
6 information regarding XO’s buildings connected is not available.⁷¹

7
8 47. Verizon also points to the concentration of special access customers, assessed by traffic
9 and revenue, in relatively few buildings.” As a general proposition, and as compared to the total
10 special access market, there are relatively few buildings where customers and demand are highly
11 concentrated. Indeed, this is precisely the reason that the MSA-based exemption does not reflect
12 competition because competitive alternatives remain unavailable in a large portion of the partic-
13 ular Phase II markets. Verizon’s claims regarding the importance of just four MSAs (New York,
14 San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles) emphasize the difficulties of providing
15 broadly available competitive alternative facilities and services in the many other MSAs where
16 Phase II relief has been granted. Even so, the estimates of concentration that Verizon cites
17 appear to be considerably exaggerated because they are limited to data traffic, which itself
18 represents only a relatively small portion of the market.

67. See CLEC Report 16th ed., Knology carrier profile at 1.

68. *Id.*, XO carrier profile, at 1.

69. See CLEC Report 17th ed., Chapter 2 at Table 1

70. *Id.*, Knology carrier profile, at 1-5

71. *Id.*, XO carrier profile, at 1.

72. See Verizon Report, at 13-14

1 **48.** The NYPSC's careful examinations of competitive facilities in the most highly concen-
2 trated market, New York City, shows the irrelevance of Verizon's emphasis upon concentration
3 for showing that an overall **MSA** market is competitive. In concluding that Verizon remained
3 dominant in the provision of special access services for all geographical areas in the state
5 including Manhattan, the NYPSC concluded that Verizon's own data revealed that "a maximum
6 of 900 buildings [are] served by individual competitors' fiber."⁷³ In contrast, New York City has
7 more than 220,000 buildings that are "mixed use, commercial, industrial or public institutions."⁷⁴
8 Because CLEC tier loops were irrelevant to actual provision of services unless joined by further
9 facilities to particular buildings, the NYPSC report concluded that "Verizon represents a bottle-
10 neck to the development of a healthy market for Special Services" (equivalent to special access
11 services).⁷⁵

12
13 **49.** Finally, Verizon argues at length that evidence of collocation demonstrates the
14 existence of special access competition and cites the Commission's reasoning that collocation is
15 an accurate basis to predict the presence of competition throughout most of an **MSA**.⁷⁶ With all
16 due respect, that **issue** is the one now challenged before the Commission by evidence that, not-
17 withstanding collocation, competitive alternatives are not available in broad areas of the **MSAs**
18 subject to Phase II relief." Faced with that evidence, the Commission will need to address the
19 scope of actual competitive alternatives, and neither the Commission nor Verizon can rely upon

73. See *Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Investigate Methods to Improve and Maintain High Quality Special Services Performance by Verizon New York, Inc., Opinion and Order Modifying Special Services Guidelines for Verizon New York Inc., Conforming Tariff, and Requiring Additional Performance Reporting*, NY PSC Case 00-C-2051, at 7-8 (June 15, 2001) ("NYPSC June Special Services Order").

74. *Id.*

75. *Id.*, at 9.

76. See Verizon Report, at 14.

77. See Tables 6 and 7 *supra*.

1 the "predictive judgment" that collocation serves as a proxy for relevant competition. And as I
2 have previously noted and as AT&T has shown,⁷⁸ collocation is in any event a nearly irrelevant
3 proxy for assessing the availability of facilities-based competitive alternatives to end users.

4

5 **The Majority of Fiber Route Miles Operated by CLECs Are Long-Haul, Not Local.**

6

7 50. Verizon claims that CLECs operate 184,000 route miles of fiber and that a majority of
8 these miles are local, not long-haul.⁷⁹ Verizon does not provide numbers to back up its claim
9 about the breakdown of these miles, nor does it explain how this conclusion was reached, other
10 than to say that it is based upon public disclosures by the CLECs.⁸⁰ However, as Verizon itself
11 acknowledges,⁸¹ most **CLEC's** do not publicly report how many of the route miles they operate
12 are purely local (as opposed to long-haul), so its assertion that a majority of these miles are local
13 is highly speculative. Moreover, numbers provided by the few CLECs that do publish the break-
14 down between local and long-haul miles undermine Verizon's claim. For instance, McLeod-
15 **USA, Inc.**, which operates a large CLEC networks, reports that only 5,000 of its 31,000 route
16 miles of fiber are local, while the rest are long-haul.⁸² XO Communications, a large CLEC,
17 states that its intercity long-haul network consists of 16,000 route miles of fiber, while its metro

78. *See Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Local Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Declaration of C. Michael Pfau on Behalf of AT&T Corp. at 18-21, Filed July 17, 2002 ("Pfau Decl.").

79. *See Verizon Report*, at 1, 12.

80. *Id.* at 12, n. 53. Verizon derives its total figure of 184,000 route miles from the 2002 CLEC Report by New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc.

81. *See Verizon Report*, at 12.

82. *See McLeodUSA Inc.*, Form 10K, on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission at 23.

1 fiber network spans only 4,300 miles.⁸³ And Adelphia Business Solutions reports that it has
2 9,536 local route miles and 7,879 long-haul miles." Thus, of the nearly 70,000 route miles
operated by the three of the largest CLEC networks, only 19,000 — or 27 percent — are local.
4 This hardly qualifies as a majority.

5
6 5f. In addition, many CLECs included in the list from which Verizon arrived at its total of
7 184,000 route miles do not even provide special access services. For example, the New
8 Paradigm report lists Knology Broadband as having 5,568 route miles of fiber, and Verizon
9 apparently counts these miles in reaching its total of 184,000. But according to New Paradigm,
10 Knology does not generate any revenue from special access services." In fact, eight of the
11 CLECs included in the list from which Verizon arrived at its total figure do not generate any
12 revenue from special access services.⁸⁶ In addition, several other CLECs, such as CTC
13 Communications Corp., generate only one or two percent of their revenues from special access
14 services — again, indicating that most of the route miles operated by these companies are not
15 relevant to an analysis of competitive fiber special access services. Verizon does not take into
16 account any of these considerations in asserting that a majority of the 184,000 route miles
17 operated by CLECs are local. It simply makes this assertion and then treats it as fact. But based

83. See *XO Launches Broadband Services in San Antonio*, Jan. 10, 2001, press release available at <http://www.xc.com/news/54.html>; *XO Will Provide Nationwide Gigabit Ethernet Service*, Sept. 25, 2000, press release available at <http://www.xo.com/news/26.html>.

84. See *Adelphia Business Solutions, Inc. Announces Third Quarter Results of Operations*, Nov. 12, 2001, press release available at http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=119453&TICK=ABIZQ&STORY=/www/story/11-12-2001/0001614064&EDATE=Nov+12,+2001.

85. See CLEC Report 2002, Ch. 6 (15th ed.)

86. In addition to Knology, the following companies do not generate any revenue from special access services: RCN Corp.; Allegiance Telecom, Inc.; Advanced TelCom Group, Inc.; Choice One Communications; Global Crossing, Ltd.; Florida Digital Network; SunWest Communications. See CLEC Report 2002, Ch. 6 (15th ed.). Together, these companies operate 22,509 route miles of fiber. *Id.*, Ch. 4 at Table 13.

1 upon the evidence provided above, it is clear that the majority of route miles operated by CLECs
2 are not local for purposes of provision of special access.

3
4 Wholesale Fiber **Providers** and Utility Competitors Are **Not** a Reliable Source of
5 **Supply**.
6

7 52. Verizon also makes exaggerated claims about the availability of wholesale local fiber,
8 stating that wholesale suppliers satisfy a large part of the CLEC's demand for interoffice trans-
9 port.⁸⁷ As with its assertions about route miles, Verizon offers no evidence to support this claim,
10 other than the self-promoting comments by some of the wholesale fiber providers themselves.
11 Rutas AT&T has pointed out in other proceedings," there are several reasons to doubt that
12 wholesale fiber is a reliable source of supply for CLECs.

13
14 53. First, several analysts have questioned whether the wholesale dark fiber market is even
15 a viable market." Indeed, witnesses for the ILECs themselves have raised this concern, pointing
16 out the difficulties involved in connecting to a fiber network that has already been built." As
17 one witness for Verizon has stated, "One doesn't plan and build fiber with the idea of going back
18 and reopening splices and touching them. To the contrary, one builds with the intent that you
19 won't ever have to go back."⁹¹ Given these and other statements by the ILEC's own witnesses, it

87. See Verizon Report, at 15

88. See *Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket No. 01-339, No. 96-98 & No. 98-147, Declaration of C. Michael Pfau on Behalf of AT&T Corp. at paras. 35-47. ("Pfau Declaration").

89. *Id.* at para. 37 & n.18 (quoting U.S. Wholesale Wavelength Services 6337-64, Frost & Sullivan 2001, p.7).

90. *Id.*, at para. 39.

91. *Id.*

1 is more than a little surprising that Verizon now suggest that access to dark fiber will be easy or
2 quickly attainable.

3
4 54. The second major obstacle to the use of wholesale fiber is the precarious financial
5 situation the industry now finds itself in. Verizon's presentation of the facts is once again
6 trapped in a time warp, touting the promise of the wholesale fiber industry as if the bubble era
7 still existed. But the bubble has burst, and the "wholesale data market has been one of the seg-
8 ments most severely affected by the telecommunication's industry's turmoil."⁹² "After several
9 years of initially promising growth, the carriers' carrier industry is now under the gun. Some
10 firms have already ceased operating, others are in Chapter 11 looking to recover, and many
11 others are struggling."⁹³ Indeed, of the nine companies cited by Verizon as wholesale local ~~for~~
12 suppliers, three have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and several others have experienced finan-
13 cial difficulty.⁹⁴ Others, such as American Fiber Systems and Fibertech Networks, have
14 announced plans to develop significant networks, but have so far only deployed dark fiber in a
15 handful of smaller markets.

16
17 55. Forecasts for the future are equally dim. "The shakeout gripping the U.S. carrier
18 industry is not over," a recent industry analysis declared. "Simply put, there are still too many
19 players with too much debt and little competitive differentiation chasing too few customers, who

92. See *North American Wholesale Data Market on the Ropes* at 2, Gartner Dataquest, November 13, 2002 ("On the Ropes").

93. *The Carriers' Carrier Playbook* at 3, The Yankee Group. August 2002.

94. The suppliers that have declared bankruptcy are Metromedia Fiber Networks, Northeast Optic Network, and Yipes Communications. In addition, both Progress Telecom and NEESCom reported losses in recent public disclosures. See Pfau Declaration at 24. Many of the other companies cited by Verizon are privately held, and therefore financial information is not readily available.

9s. *Id.* at 17

1 are facing their own financial and operational problems.”” The result is that industry revenues
2 are expected to continue their recent decline for at least for the next two years.⁹⁷ And that will
7 inevitably lead to more business failures. According to one analyst, “a number of these carriers
4 will go through bankruptcy more than once, and the cleansing effect on the market cannot be
5 experienced fully until more players actually consolidate or go out of business.”⁹⁸

6
7 56. Verizon suggests that many of the companies that have filed for bankruptcy are
8 operating normally and that Chapter 11 has been little more than a speed bump on the road to
9 success.⁹⁹ To support this claim, Verizon cites to press releases in which the companies state
10 that they will continue to operate without interruption during their reorganizations. But com-
11 pany press releases, which are designed to comfort worried investors and customers, are hardly
12 solid evidence that these companies will rebound from bankruptcy as reliable suppliers. And as I
13 have pointed out above, bankruptcy is not just a normal business condition; it is a serious
14 impediment to competition. Because dark fiber connectivity contracts are generally for lengthy
15 periods of time (in the range of 20-years), the buying carrier must have confidence that the
16 supplying carrier will be sufficiently stable to engage in long-term relationships. Companies that
17 have recently emerged from bankruptcy or that have experienced financial difficulty are unlikely
18 to instill that kind of confidence. As one industry analyst points out, “restructuring under
19 Chapter 11 protection may provide a new lease on life for a few firms, but it is not a magic bullet

96. *Id.*

97. *See Wholesale Voice Services* 6339-63, Frost & Sullivan 2002, at 2.

98. *See On the Ropes*, at 4.

99. *See Verizon Report*, at 16.

1 For all that ails the carriers' carrier industry. In fact, it may actually prolong industry turmoil and
2 uncertainty." ""

3
4 57. Verizon's final claim is that the entry of utility companies into the wholesale supply
5 business will provide CLECs with the fiber they **need** for special access.¹⁰¹ But this assertion is
6 as unsupported as all the others that Verizon has made. Although some utility companies have
7 expressed an intention to supply fiber, there is no evidence that any of the utility companies
8 listed by Verizon will soon become significant players in the wholesale market. Indeed, of the
9 sixteen companies listed by Verizon, seven give no indication on their websites that they even
10 offer carrier services: one has ceased its telecommunications operations; one is bankrupt; and
11 one does not own its own metro fiber.¹⁰² Of the remaining companies, **one** expresses a lack of
12 interest in providing dark fiber. Utility companies may eventually have some success in pro-
13 viding limited metro fiber services because of their low incremental cost of deploying fiber in
14 existing rights-of-way, using existing structures and construction resources." "" But utilities have
15 no obligation to provide supply to CLECs, nor do they have any incentive to price their services
16 below those of ILEC alternatives, such as special access. It is therefore premature to conclude
17 that utilities will become a viable source of supply for CLECs.

18
19 **The Evidence Shows that ILECs Have Undermined Downstream Service Competition.**
20

21 58. Verizon devotes considerable effort to demonstrating that the ILECs have not yet under-
22 mined competition in markets that employ special access services as an input, and claims that

100. See The Carriers' Carrier Playbook, at 17.

101. See Verizon Report, at 18.

102. See, e.g., Pfau Declaration, at para. 46.

103. *Id.* at para. 47.